



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-012

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, higher education is critical for the future of New Mexico and critical for developing the well-trained, educated workforce necessary for building a high wage economy;

WHEREAS, the Citizens of New Mexico demand a valid system of performance measurement and accountability for the State's two and four year public colleges and universities;

WHEREAS, inefficiencies and duplication of efforts that may currently exist among New Mexico's public colleges and universities must be examined and a determination must be made regarding reviewing and evaluating the efficacy of existing financial resource allocations to the State's institutions of higher learning;

WHEREAS, an evaluation and clarification of the role and responsibilities of the Commission on Higher Education is necessary as well as a clear definition and delineation of the role and scope of two and four year educational institutions;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State of New Mexico address its Citizens' grave concerns regarding low completion rates of students entering the two and four year college programs and regarding the unacceptable achievement gap in the graduation rates for minorities in baccalaureate programs;

WHEREAS, existing financial assistance programs, including the lottery scholarship program, must be evaluated to determine their effectiveness in providing equitable access for students from low-income families as well as their effectiveness as incentives for increasing higher education enrollment and graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of New Mexico can only benefit from a strong alliance between the Commission on Higher Education and the Public Education Department for the purpose of coordinating their efforts and creating a seamless continuum of education from secondary education through post secondary education.

NOW THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of New Mexico, do hereby establish the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education (hereinafter "Task Force").

The Task Force is established for the purpose of developing and recommending to the Governor a framework and strategy for a fully integrated and articulated system of higher education in New Mexico. The Task Force's recommendations must be presented to the Governor by December 1, 2004, and must address:

1. Student readiness;
2. Equitable access to higher education;
3. Student retention;
4. Financing of higher education;
5. Student success and workforce development;
6. The role and focus of each institution of higher education;
7. The role of the Commission on Higher Education and alignment with the Public Education Department;
8. Accessibility to and effectiveness of the lottery scholarship program and other financial assistance programs;
9. Measurable outcomes and increased accountability for the Higher Education System; and
10. The recommendations from the Governor's Progress Agenda Subcommittee on Higher Education.

The Task Force shall be comprised of members from the public and private sectors and shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Furthermore, the Task Force shall be instituted as follows:

1. The Governor shall select a Chair from the Task Force membership;
2. Task Force members shall serve voluntarily and shall receive no pay for their services, nor shall they be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses;
3. The Task Force shall meet at least quarterly as determined by the Chair; and
4. Geographic consideration shall be given when making Task Force appointments.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamation, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

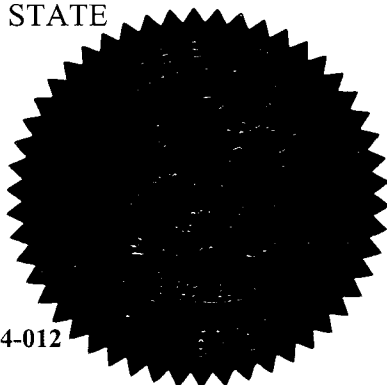
ATTEST:



REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2004

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR